

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN
RECONVENED ITS RECESSED REGULAR SESSION OF JUNE 6, 2005 ON
JUNE 15, 2005 AT 9:15 A.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM OF THE
CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET,
NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING WAS
TO CONDUCT A BUDGET WORK SESSION.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman George N. Brown, Jr.
Vice Chairman Perry L. Morris
Commissioner Lee Kyle Allen
Commissioner Bill Harper
Commissioner Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Commissioner M. Renée Sisk
Commissioner Leon C. Staton

STAFF PRESENT:

Harold Blizzard, County Manager
George B. Sawyer, Assistant County Manager
Richard F. Hemphill, County Finance Officer
Ray H. Moser, Human Resources Director
Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board

Following an invocation by Commissioner Allen, County Manager, Harold Blizzard, distributed a summary reflecting the changes in the proposed budget since the recommendations were presented, as a result of a consensus reached in previous budget work sessions.

Human Resources Director, Ray Moser, requested that the Board approve reclassification of a Computer Systems Administrator II at the Department of Social Services. The reclassification would take the position from a grade 70 to a grade 68 Computer Systems Administrator I, which would result in annual savings of \$3,500. Commissioner Allen moved to approve the request for reclassification, seconded by Commissioner Harper and unanimously carried.

The Board proceeded with the review of items pending from the previous budget work sessions. Mr. Blizzard reported that he had confirmed with New Bern City Manager, Bill Hartman, that the City's contribution in the amount of \$750,000 toward the celebration of New Bern's 300th Anniversary would be in cash as opposed to in-kind services. He asked if the Commissioners wished to consider a resolution which would support the efforts of the 300th Anniversary Committee without committing funds from the County. The consensus of the Board was to allocate \$4,000 for use by the 300th Anniversary Committee as seed money in the 2005-2006 budget year and to make plans to support the celebration in some way as plans evolve. There was consensus that a resolution would not be appropriate as it may be misleading to legislators.

There was discussion concerning the CHAPS Program, which provides social workers in the schools. Currently the three social workers included in the budget are placed at Bangert, Oaks Road and J.W. Smith Elementary Schools. Havelock requested a position at one its elementary schools and Mr. Blizzard agreed to confer with Social Services Director, Donn Gunderson, about the possibility of redeploying one of the social workers. Commissioner Staton indicated that he had received assurances from the Superintendent of Schools that the position at Bangert could be effectively shifted to Roger Bell Elementary School.

At 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Staton moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(6) and (3) concerning personnel and pending litigation. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

At 11:05 a.m. the Board returned to regular session. Mr. Blizzard announced that there had been no action taken on the pending litigation and no action to report relative to one of the personnel issues, although action may be forthcoming at the June 20th regular

session. The Chairman announced that the Board had elected to increase the salary of the County Manager, the Sheriff and the Register of Deeds by 3% as is being proposed for all employees. Commissioner Staton expressed a need to ask the Department of Transportation to reconsider the status of improvements to Highway 101. Commissioner Harper indicated that the condition of John Street in James City needs attention. Mr. Blizzard stated that he would review the status of the road with the Department of Transportation; however, he cautioned that acquisition of rights-of-way often hinders road improvements.

At 11:15 a.m. Commissioner Sisk moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried.

Chairman George N. Brown, Jr.
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan
Clerk to the Board